clean-up act: 3 IAS men may get the boot" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 12th July, 2002;

(b) whether Government have given their approval for sacking 3 IAS top profile officials;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government would persuade the other State Government to undertake such exercises in order to weed out the corrupt officials; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter is not of corrupt bureaucrats being fired in Orissa but of a review normally undertaken in the cases of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers on attaining the age of 50 years or on completion of 30 years' qualifying service by the Central Government in consultation with the concerned State Government under Rule 16(3) of the All India Services (Death-Cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958. Following their review, Government of Orissa have recommended premature retirement of some officers belonging to the Orissa cadre of the IAS. The matter is under examination with the Central Government.

(d) and (e) All State Governments are statutorily required to carry out this review for every IAS officer on his attaining the age of 50 years or on completion of 30 years of qualifying service.

Change of inquiry officers

1726. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for a change of inquiry officers in the departmental inquiry if and when a representation is made by the charged officials alleging bias or prejudice;

(b) if so, whether proceedings stand stayed pending decision of the disciplinary authority on such a representation; and

(c) whether such orders are appealable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Rules do not prohibit change of inquiry officers by the disciplinary authority on valid grounds including allegations of bias against the inquiry officers.

(b) As per the existing instructions wherever an application is moved by a Government servant against whom disciplinary proceedings are initiated under the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965, against the inquiry officer on grounds of bias, the proceeding should be stayed and the application referred, alongwith the relevant material, to the appropriate reviewing authority for considering the application and passing appropriate orders thereon.

(c) There is no provision for appeal against an order appointing a person as inquiry officer in a disciplinary proceeding. However, such an order can be reviewed by the reviewing authority as stated against (b) above.

Stay on Departmental Inquiry

1727. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is some provisions for staying departmental inquiry proceedings if and when the charged official makes written allegations of prejudice/bias against inquiry officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the prescribed remedies against non-observance of staying provisions by the inquiry officers/disciplinary authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) As per the existing instructions wherever an application is moved by a Government servant against whom disciplinary proceedings are initiated under the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965, against the inquiry officer on grounds of bias, the proceedings should be stayed and the application referred, alongwith the relevant material, to the appropriate reviewing authority for considering the application and passing appropriate orders thereon.

(c) The employee concerned can raise the question of non-observance of instructions for staying the proceedings in his submission